



**Habitat
for Humanity®**
Nicaragua

newsletter
July-September 2024



40 years
*hand in hand with
The Community*



habitatnicaragua.org



Message from the Country Director

I was asked what was the first thing that came to my mind when I heard that Habitat Nicaragua is celebrating its 40th anniversary. My answer was practically automatic: An extraordinary job. For me, that phrase perfectly sums up everything that the organization has done in these four decades. I began to review the milestones that I consider most important, at least the ones I know, and today I want to share them through these lines.

The first milestone is that Habitat for Humanity, since its inception, has worked to promote public investment not only in housing, but also in water and sanitation. We have worked in alliance with municipalities, providing funds for the construction and improvement of housing, technical assistance and training for families participating in these projects. We have also collaborated in the installation of sanitary units in areas where public water and sanitation networks have been expanded to increase home connectivity and not leave anyone behind.

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch forced us to design responses for the recovery of post-disaster housing. From there, different types of products and services have been developed to deal with these types of emergencies, and of course for the Covid-19 pandemic, always coordinating with municipal and national authorities and other social organizations. Thanks to this teamwork, we have supported more than 27 thousand people in their recovery.

Another important milestone was the change in programmatic strategy in 2009. After 23 years of building housing as its main line of work, Habitat Nicaragua took an important turn by incorporating the progressive improvement of housing as a strategy to meet qualitative demand, and to offer products and

services so that people who already have a home can improve it in stages. Today, more than 35 thousand people live in better homes.

I must also mention the creation of the second-tier fund in 2011. This fund allowed us to work in alliance with more than 11 Microfinance Institutions, who through loans for home improvements and construction technical assistance from Habitat, helped more than 3,600 people to progressively improve their homes over a decade. 65% of these clients were women.

Each milestone required internal organizational adaptation, a change of mentality in staff, creativity and resilience to adapt to new approaches, conditions and circumstances that have also changed throughout our history. For example, the conditions in which we worked during the COVID-19 pandemic were very difficult, but we managed to support 7,600 people with information, water filters, prevention and hygiene items.

The road has been long, complex and very satisfying. As Director, I feel very proud of the efficiency, resilience and professional capacity of the work team, not only the current one but of all those who have been at Habitat during these four decades, because each one gave part of their life to the cause of decent housing, and all made it possible for us to commemorate this date today.

It fills me with pride to know that we are part of a global network that is supportive and committed to the world through housing, such as Habitat for Humanity International, which has also supported us unconditionally in Nicaragua. This gives us a sense of duty beyond our country.

Finally, I would like to give special recognition to the thousands of volunteers who have come to Nicaragua for many years to put their resources together, hand in hand with the community, and to each of the people who, mainly in the United States, but also from Canada, Europe and other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, have donated from one dollar or more to the Nicaragua program. All of this makes us know that we are part of a single community called our planet.

On behalf of the national team of Habitat Nicaragua, thank you all.

Nancy Aróstegui,
Country Director
Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua


Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua is a non-profit organization that advocates and works for the right to decent housing and the sustainable improvement of community habitat. It promotes the social and political recognition of decent housing as a basic right.

We ensure that the target population has timely access to the services and products necessary to produce and maintain decent housing through community development. We support the development of the population's capacities for the prevention, mitigation and response to disasters.




Vision.	Mission.
A world where everyone has a decent place to live.	Habitat for Humanity calls people to build homes, communities and hope, and thus demonstrate God's love in action.


Lines of work



Habitat improvement. We build progressive modules or seed homes in adaptation to climate change to replace precarious houses. We improve existing ones, build adequate sanitary units and improve the homes of families who undertake to generate income.



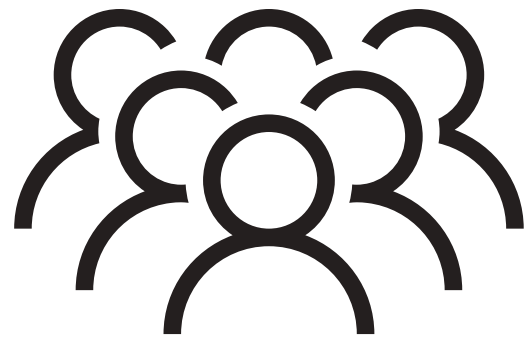
Capacity building. We provide knowledge and tools to families so that they continue to improve their housing conditions.



Risk reduction and response to disasters. From our approach to safe housing and disaster risk mitigation, we promote a culture of responsible construction, and we also help families affected by a disaster to begin their recovery process.

40 years

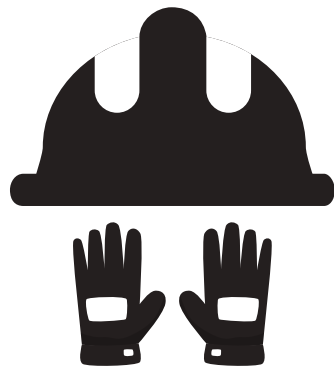
Our impact in numbers



101,320
People with better housing



27,959
People supported in post-disaster recovery



20,264
Homes built or improved



19,558
People trained

Over the years, Habitat Nicaragua has developed projects in a large part of the national territory



✔ **Strengthen the capacities of families who, in partnership with Habitat Nicaragua, have improved their housing.** Knowledge and good practices have been transmitted in: Financial education, Secure tenure, Healthy housing, Safe housing, Self-construction and progressiveness; Use and maintenance, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate change, Water management and management, Community Dx, safeguarding and other topics.

✔ **All families need** support to rebuild after a disaster. In these 40 years, the organization has been present in post-hurricane recovery processes, floods and of course the Covid-19 pandemic.



A journey through history: how Habitat came to Nicaragua

Habitat for Humanity began its work in 1976 as a Christian movement in southern Georgia in the United States. Three years later it took its first steps in Latin America, in the rural community of Aguacatán, Guatemala, and in 1984 it arrived in Nicaragua.

The first 12 houses were inaugurated in the Germán Pomares neighborhood of Chinandega, in the western part of the country. Former United States President Jimmy Carter attended the inauguration. It began on this site through the efforts of Dr. Gustavo Parajón, president of the Evangelical Council for the Denominational Alliance (CEPAD), who coordinated with Jim Hornsby to carry out the first works.

Jim, who was pastor of a Baptist church in Kalowee, had visited Nicaragua with the organization Witness for Peace, and as he recounted at the time, seeing the level of solidarity that existed



among the people of a country that was in the midst of war, he felt that God was calling him to work here.

The process of making CEPAD official as a representative of Habitat in Nicaragua took place on October 6, 1984 during an international board meeting in Amarillo, Texas. Jim, his wife Sara, his son Michael and the volunteer, Julie Knobb, began their work.

In 1987 the Hornsby family returned to the United States and became spokespersons for Habitat International and founders of the first international volunteer program of Habitat Nicaragua. In 1993 it was consolidated as a non-profit organization, autonomous from CEPAD and entirely national, with its first board of directors under the supervision of the regional office in Costa Rica.

In partnership

In 2007, Habitat Nicaragua began a process of redefining its programmatic strategy and, as a result, since 2010, the main efforts have been directed towards working in partnership with other national organizations, through financing, technical assistance and training for the improvement, rehabilitation and expansion of housing, secure tenure and improvement of community habitat.

In the last two decades, the work of the organization has diversified to such an extent that, in addition to the construction of housing, it also supports families with projects that improve their quality of life, such as: the construction of eco-bathrooms that allow for privacy and a proper toilet that does not contaminate the subsoil or water sources.

It also ventured into the construction of eco-stoves, with a unique architectural design that allows for saving firewood, making tortillas in less time and, above all, taking care of their health because it does not emit smoke. Habitat also provides technical support for construction processes and capacity building for participating families, so that they can continue to improve their habitat on their own and with their own resources.

For a long time, the organization also worked in partnership with microfinance institutions that provided loans for home improvements, with technical-construction supervision by Habitat, guaranteeing construction quality and investment. Emergency response projects, such as hurricanes and floods, have also been part of the organization's programs.

Each family that partners with Habitat Nicaragua is trained in topics such as: Healthy Housing (where they learn to take care



Jim Hornsby.



of their home and use the spaces appropriately), and Financial Education (where they learn to take better care of their finances, save and thus be able to continue investing in their home).

Working hand in hand with local partners and strategic allies has allowed Habitat to grow and establish itself as an organization that works for decent housing and has solid credibility and prestige. Every time a project is identified and funds are available, work is done with local partners and more Nicaraguan families improve their quality of life.

How has been the experience of working with Habitat Nicaragua?

“Looking back on our experience working hand in hand with Habitat, I am very grateful, because it is the sum of many efforts to cover great needs. The entire Habitat technical team with whom we have collaborated has always taken care of all the variables so that the projects become a reality, in addition to this practice, the value they add to the work by transmitting their knowledge to the beneficiaries, so that the projects are as successful as possible.

Of the shared experiences, I remember with great gratitude, the construction of sanitary units in the community of San Cayetano, where we had the opportunity to participate a full day in the constructions and share not only with the Habitat team, but also with the beneficiary families, with the first being to realize firsthand the amount of work that there is before, during and after, and with the beneficiaries, to understand how these projects change their way of life, to have improved conditions. One returns with a heart full of satisfaction, and with this experience we understood as a company that through the projects that Habitat promotes, we can change many practices to guarantee better living conditions for these communities.

Thank you very much Habitat for its commitment to Nicaraguan families, and my most sincere congratulations for the effort that is now reflected in 40 years of success.”



Grethel Valeria Valle, Commercial Manager Plycem

“At RASNIC we are grateful for the support we have received from Habitat for Humanity over the years. Without a doubt, each collaboration has been an opportunity to continue advancing in improving the quality of life of the Nicaraguan population, especially in rural areas, through permanent and quality access to water and sanitation services. We congratulate Habitat Nicaragua for celebrating 40 years of its foundation in Nicaragua.”



María Belén Rivas, Executive Secretary of RASNIC.



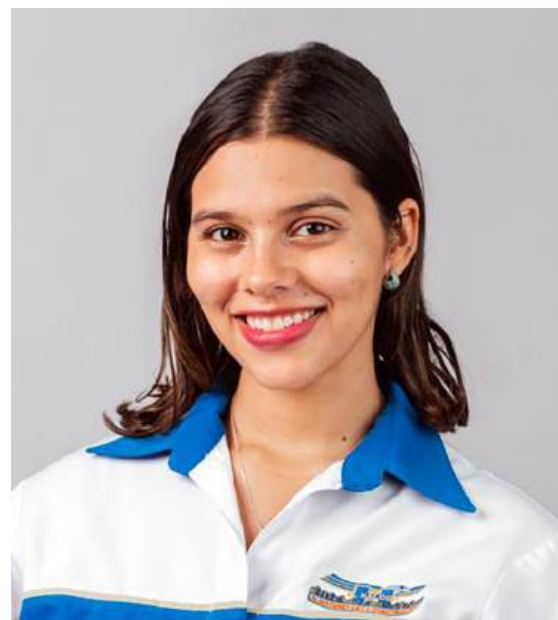
Ileana González, Director of Inprhu.

“Working with Habitat Nicaragua has meant institutional strengthening for the Institute for Human Promotion (Inprhu Estelí), in very sensitive areas of the communities we serve. It really means contributing to the knowledge of community capacities and knowledge. The fruit of this joint work has been successful because of the results, and successful because the conditions of families have improved, that is evident.

I believe that the face of the communities has changed in terms of housing improvement, in terms of housing, in terms of the issue of women and young entrepreneurs with whom we have worked. I believe that it has also contributed to the improvement of the family, community, and municipal economy.”

Our collaboration with Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua during the ravages of Hurricanes Eta and Iota was an invaluable experience, especially because we directly involved our clients in the relief effort. At each of our branches, clients had the opportunity to make donations that were then channeled through Habitat to reach the affected communities.

This initiative not only allowed those affected to receive materials and support in their reconstruction process, but also united our community in an act of solidarity. The experience showed us the power of collaboration and how together, we can generate a significant impact in times of crisis. This alliance has strengthened our social commitment, allowing us to be an active part of projects that promote decent and sustainable housing in our country.”



Gabriela Cajina, Communications and Marketing Manager El Halcón.

“Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua is a proactive organization within the National Risk Management Roundtable (MNGR), always present in the processes developed from this platform, contributing from its experience to strengthening the capacities of its membership, as well as joining work committees from where it makes its strategic contribution to improving the processes promoted by the MNGR in order to contribute to improving the quality of life of the vulnerable population. Congratulations to Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua on its 40th anniversary, working for the right to decent housing and sustainable habitat improvement.”



Rosa Matamoros, facilitator of the National Risk Management Roundtable (MNGR).

“Since 2022, we have established an alliance with Habitat for Humanity Nicaragua to jointly develop the 100 thousand Floors for Play On initiative, benefiting families in Estelí and Nagarote, the latter community being close to our cement plant. By 2024, we have managed to benefit 475 families who are in vulnerable conditions, homes where at least one person with a disability or chronic illness lives.

At Holcim Nicaragua, we are proud to be part of this initiative. Habitat is a strategic ally to contribute to the development and improvement of the quality of life of vulnerable families; we reaffirm our commitment as a company to build progress for people and the planet. We will continue to support Habitat for Humanity in the construction of the floors to benefit more Nicaraguan families.”



Jean Karl Aburto, Country Manager-Holcim Nicaragua.



David Bradford, Country Director of Food for the Hungry.

“FH Association met Habitat a few years ago. We met to recognize the synergies between the organizations, and we saw that we had a lot in common. The first time we worked as complementary organizations was during the COVID-19 pandemic. Habitat has a lot of experience in post-disaster emergency care and support. It was really good to work hand in hand to bring help to rural communities at such a critical time. We also joined forces after hurricanes Eta and Iota. We are very happy and grateful because, ultimately, unity is strength. We trust that in the future we can work in complementary organizations on other issues such as WASH, always with a focus on rurality, which is the core of FH.”

“We would like to congratulate Habitat for Humanity on its 40th anniversary. During this time, it has shown its humanitarianism towards many sectors in the different regions of our country. We also thank them for making us part of their social work, supporting them with training and installations, through our technology for wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting systems, in order to improve the quality of life of many people in rural areas.”



Joel Rodríguez, Plastitank project advisor.

Tell me your story

“I started with a display, offering a few things, but I saw that I was doing well and so little by little I have been growing the business. The problem was that I didn't have the conditions, I needed to put a floor, make a wall and put a false ceiling. Now people come and tell me that it looks nice, they even insinuate that I have money, but I explain to them that it was through the project,” Kathy, entrepreneurs project, Estelí.



“The entire pipeline was washed away by the stream, God knows when they will put it back. I have not had water for almost two months, because the water that comes down is dirty and the water from the springs and wells stinks. It disgusts me, the girls and I only drink it in coffee because it is already boiled,” Maribel tells us. San José de Wiwilí Community after the passage of Hurricane Iota.

“Imagine what a blessing this help that you have brought us is. If I had the people who supported us face to face, I would like to hug them but since I can't, I thank them and starting today, I will pray for them, so that they continue to be blessed,” Alejandra, Los Arcos community, La Paz Centro-León. Families received kits during the pandemic.



“When we found out that we were going to be considered for this project, it was a great joy, a great blessing because now I am a mother and now my dream as a child is a reality for my daughter,” María Celeste, 100 thousand floors to play initiative, Estelí.



	Julieta
	(Eliza alive?)
x	Melania Cal
x	Rosa Tellez
x	Karla Tellez
x	Andrés B
x	M4GG
x	Lisbeth Duarte
x	A.A.C.A.
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